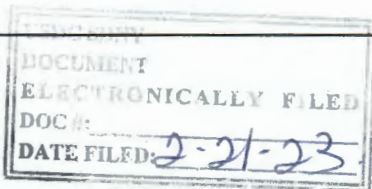




U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York



86 Chambers Street  
New York, New York 10007

February 16, 2023

**BY ECF**

Honorable Lewis A. Kaplan  
Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
United States Courthouse  
500 Pearl St.  
New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: *MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, et al., v. U.S. Dep't of Health and Human Services, et al.*, 21 Civ. 475 (LAK)

Dear Judge Kaplan:

This Office represents the defendant federal agencies and government officials sued in their official capacities (together, the "government") in this action. I write jointly with the plaintiffs' counsel to provide a status update and to respectfully request an extension of the existing stay of all proceedings.

Since the stay was last extended, the government has issued a notice of proposed rulemaking. *See* Partnerships With Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations, 88 Fed. Reg. 2395 (Jan. 13, 2023), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/13/2022-28376/partnerships-with-faith-based-and-neighborhood-organizations>. The period for public comment currently runs through March 14.

In light of the issuance of the notice, the parties respectfully request that the current stay of all proceedings, *see* ECF Nos. 72, 76, 78, be extended from February 17, 2023, through and including the earlier of the following two dates: (1) six additional months, which is August 17, 2023; or (2) thirty days after the government publishes notice of a final rule in the Federal Register. The parties further propose that they file a status report by the same date that proposes any next steps in the litigation.

Graced  
SO ORDERED  
*Lewis A. Kaplan*  
LEWIS A. KAPLAN, USDJ  
2/21/23

Honorable Lewis A. Kaplan  
February 16, 2023

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We thank the Court for its attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

DAMIAN WILLIAMS  
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Southern District of New York

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